

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /103 W

----- 118704

R 302215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4029

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 1683

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT NU

SUBJECT: GENERAL SOMOZA EXPLAINS GON POSITION ON MEDIA CENSORSHIP

REF: MANAGUA 1617

1. GENERAL SOMOZA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 27 THAT GON IMPOSED MEDIA CENSORSHIP WITH GREATEST RELUCTANCE AFTER NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL AND CABINET CONCLUDED THAT ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE EVEN MORE UNDESIRABLE USE OF FORCE TO SUPPRESS VIOLENCE AND LIKELY BLOODSHED. SOMOZA EXPLAINED THAT GON BECAME INCREASINGLY ALARMED THAT HOSPITAL STRIKERS WERE RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN SOURCES AND WERE BECOMING MORE DEEPLY ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNIST DOMINATED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION (SCAAS). GON ALSO HABORED SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT STRIKERS INVOLVEMENT WITH SOCIAL CHRISTIANS (PCS) AND LIBERAL CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (INPRHU) WHICH IT DEEPLY MISTRUSTS. IN GON VIEW, BARRAGE OF INFLAMMATORY ARTICLES APPEARING IN OPPOSITION LA PRENSA AND DOME RADIO BROADCASTS WERE FEEDING FLAMES OF AN INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND IT HAD TO ACT TO SNUFF THEM OUT. GON THEREFORE BIT THE BULLET AND

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ISSUED

CENSORSHIP DECREE WHICH, ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, IT INTENDS TO RESCIND AS

SOON AS STRIKE ENDS.

2. COMMENT: ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN NUMEROUS TELEGRAMS ON THE STRIKES (MANAGUA 1618 AND PREVIOUS) WE DID NOT ASSESS SITUATION AS BEING AS HAZARDOUS AS GON APPARENTLY CONSIDERED IT TO BE. HOWEVER, GON MAY HAVE INFORMATION WHICH WE DO NOT POSSES. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTANDABLY TAKE A MORE DETACHED VIEW OF SOME OF THE CHARACTERS AND FORCES INVOLVED THAN THE GON, WHICH APPARENTLY PERCEIVES THEM AS VERY OMINOUS AND THREATENING TO ITS POSITION. NEVERTHELESS WE CAN AGREE THAT IF GON DID PERCEIVE A SERIOUS THREAT TO STABILITY IT WAS PROBABLY CORRECT IN CHOOSING CENSORSHIP OVER EVEN MORE REPRESSIVE AND OBJECTIONABLE MEASURES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION MEDIA, CENSORSHIP, LABOR STRIKES, HOSPITALS, PROCOMMUNIST, RADIO BROADCASTING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** MANAGUA 1617  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 SEP 2002  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL SOMOZA EXPLAINS GON POSITION ON MEDIA CENSORSHIP  
**TAGS:** PINT, NU, (SOMOZA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005